



## **TEDC COMMITTEE REPORTS - 2018 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE**

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### **CEDA Committee**

After reviewing the 2018 CEDA application and clarifying a couple of statements (“the project being submitted for a 2018 CEDA may not have been nominated for a CEDA in a previous year,” and “multiple entries per community are only permitted if the entries are submitted by separate entities”), the committee reaffirmed the application. Chair Fugate reviewed the application period, scoring spreadsheet, and scoring meeting date with the committee and led discussion on the CEDA survey. The survey will be released by TEDC on June 26 and close on July 13, with a reminder going out on or about July 10. Chair Fugate invited all CEDA committee members to attend the CEDA panel discussion on July 15 (the last session of the Mid-Year Conference).

### **Conference Committee**

The focus of discussion was the 2018 Annual Conference. Those present agreed to move forward with a conference theme of “E-Commerce”. There was some discussion around specific session topic that may be covered such as the “last mile” distribution centers and web based vendors that are move toward limited brick and mortar facilities. The committee agreed that having a mobile event app for the annual conference was a helpful tool and should be considered. Under new business: Staff brought up the idea of an E.D. Expert Lounge. This would be a designated time during the conference when a few seasoned economic development professionals would be available to answer questions and brainstorm solutions for conference attendees. We are planning to test the concept at the annual conference.

### **Education Committee**

The attendees reviewed the Webinar History Report and Webinar Calendar. Topics for future webinars were suggested such as: LMCI (Tracer2) – how to utilize and access information on the TWC’s website; Federal Reserve Bank updates, the Beige Report; NAFTA; Labor and workforce development – have a webinar to introduce programs and then a PGR to share best practices and overcome challenges; How to engage adult education in small communities; Creative workforce programs in small communities; Energy perspectives – wind, solar and the state power grid. The group reviewed the Peer Group Roundtable History Report and suggested the future topics such as: Young and new to economic development – perspectives and views of the industry; Labor and workforce development in small communities. Attendees discussed utilizing the expertise of universities across the state for webinars, Texas A&M Real Estate Center and UTSA were specifically mentioned. The calendars for upcoming BEDCs and ED Sales Tax Workshops were reviewed. There was discussed about the need for a “Back to Basics” refresher-type course for those economic developers who have been in the business for a while. The topics suggest can also be for breakout sessions at future conferences.

### **Forward Planning**

The TEDC Forward Planning Committee met on June 13, 2018. An update was given on the status of the TEDC Regional Meeting which will be held August 3 at the Lufkin Conference center. The Forest Country Partnership will sponsor the event. Discussion was held on how to engage new members and groom future leaders for TEDC leadership roles. Suggestions included: Survey new members to gauge area of committee interest then committee chairs follow up and; inform members that they can self-nominate for the board of directors, and that they don’t have to be nominated by another member. It is anticipated that the Regional Meetings will also contribute to new member engagement and leadership development. Old business discussion included the possibility of discounted conference registrations for multiple attendees from an organization. Staff will research the idea and report back to the committee. New business discussion included ongoing thoughts on how TEDC can continue to be “relevant” given the changing membership makeup.

## **Legislative/ED Sales Tax**

The Legislative and ED Sales Tax Committee met on Friday morning. All committee chairs were available to answer specific questions regarding the TEDC's position on legislative policy and priorities. Carlton also provided an update on the TEDC's legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session and he stressed the importance to having all TEDC members stayed engaged with their local representatives. Carlton also mentioned the role of the 2050 Group and the TEDC's involvement as a member of that group, which includes many organizations that partner as a coalition on economic development issues and priorities. Carlton also stated that he may be calling on TEDC members to come to Austin to testify if needed for specific bills in committee.

## **Membership Committee**

The meeting attendees reviewed the membership report. As of May 31, 2018, there were 831 TEDC members, of which 607 were active members, 129 were volunteer members, 67 were honorary or affiliate members, and 21 were state members. The committee approved 50 new members that have joined the TEDC since February 2018. The committee discussed ways to continue to engage new members and increase their involvement in the TEDC. Also discussed was the idea of establishing a member community online for TEDC members to be able to ask a question that could be answered by a group of volunteer economic development practitioners. This feature is slated to be a part of the new TEDC website, however, there was discussion of implementing this feature as part of the current website in the interim. This would require having at least 10 to 12 economic development practitioners to volunteer to receive the inquiries from the website and offer assistance if they can.

## **PAC Committee**

Discussion was held regarding the remaining fundraisers for 2018. Bingo will be held during the reception aboard the Paddle Wheel boat in Galveston. Prizes were solicited for the bingo winners. For the annual conference, the committee will begin actively soliciting items for the Live and Silent Auctions. Possible live auction items include a fishing trip and a suite to the Mesquite Rodeo. We will also check to see whether or not the arrangement for the reception at The Worthington will allow us to do a wine/liquor pull at the Annual Conference. We would solicit donated bottles of wine and liquor so the ticket sales would be donated in entirety to the PAC (like the Bingo fundraiser). This could be done in conjunction with the silent and live auction.

Discussion was held as to how to make sure that we had better member participation in the PAC. Ideas that were discussed were to ask all of the members of the TEDC Board of Directors to join the PAC so that the Board would have 100% participation. We also agreed that we would make sure that new members to TEDC were presented information about the PAC and its importance to the organization and that PAC membership would be pushed at every session and event that TEDC holds. Other ideas were mentioned to provide incentives for recruiting PAC membership, such as a complimentary annual registration for soliciting 10 PAC members. Another suggestion was for there to be "PAC Member Only" perks, such as a reception in the Chairman's Suite at the Annual Conference. The only old business that was discussed was to invite communities to consider putting together a breakfast/luncheon /coffee of businesses in their town so that Carlton could come provide the pitch for the PAC to the business community.

## **Team Texas**

The Team Texas Advisory Council held its bi-annual planning session at TEDC's Mid-Year Conference, during which leadership and staff reviewed the results of the 2018 Team Texas member survey, financials, and marketing events. The Advisory Council discussed opportunities ahead for 2019 and will hear recommendations for the upcoming Program of Work from staff in August.

## **Transportation Committee**

The committee discussed results of Survey and lack of response. Current group disagreed with results and felt like a break out session on Toll roads as an economic development opportunity better topic for session. Need to create positive narrative of toll road to counter Tea Party opposition narrative. Discussed future of committee and if subject matter should be rolled into legislative committee. Decided to bring issue to Board for consideration.

## **Water Committee**

Discussion started with one of the members stating some people in Matagorda County were interested in the management of the Colorado River, particularly how fisheries producing oysters and shrimp are affected by fresh water coming down the Colorado River. Chad also discussed the SWIFT Fund which is a revolving loan fund. Created by the state in 2013, Texas voters approved the creation of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT). Introduced by the 83rd Texas Legislature during the 2013 legislative session, SWIFT enabled a one-time investment of \$2 billion from the state's Economic Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, to provide low-cost loans for water projects in Texas. Additionally, the legislature called for at least 20 percent of SWIFT to be reserved for conservation and reuse projects and at least 10 percent to be reserved for rural and agricultural projects.. The state is working through those projects now. Haven't heard of additional funding needed at this time.

Fred Welch discussed legislatively that the TEDC Water Committee needs to pay attention to these items - Rural communities coming together on a water strategy; Monitor what the TEDC Legislative Committee is working on; Possibility that the Water Committee could help lobby with the Legislative Committee; Understanding WHO the River Masters are of each river system; Lobbying for the formation of new reservoirs. Chad stated that there is no current ask of the legislature for support of hurricane surge protection (Ike Dike), but that the range of dollars needed is between \$6 billion to \$15 billion. The \$6 billion number would get the state a "protective middle channel" and that it would need full state support to get the legislation passed, because if a storm surge happens on the coast, IT WILL NOT BE A LOCAL EVENT. Chad also went into greater detail with the committee about the economics, politics and other efforts underway to get the legislature involved which all involve hurricane storm surge protection. He also mentioned there are at least a half dozen national organizations who would support the Ike Dike, such as American Chemical Council and the American Fuel and Petroleum Producers.

## **Workforce Development Committee**

The Workforce Development Committee met on June 13, 2018. Amber Gosser, Committee Chair, welcomed the group and had everyone do introductions. The first agenda item was the Workforce Excellence Award breakfast to be held on at the conference. Amy Swank, with TEDC, discussed the awards process, the number of applications received in each category and the nominees and award recipients. In addition, she also discussed the press release that will follow the award ceremony on Thursday. The next agenda item was workforce-related topics and speakers for future TEDC conferences. There was great discussion about future topics that could be relevant to attendees. Some of the suggestions for topics include the High Skill-High Demand Training Grant available to EDC's and workforce boards, Externships for teachers, Success stories from communities (EDC's, workforce boards, school districts, community colleges, industry, etc.), highlighting a community. Committee members were asked to send specific examples or suggestions to Amy or Amber and Adam.